

SECTION **4**

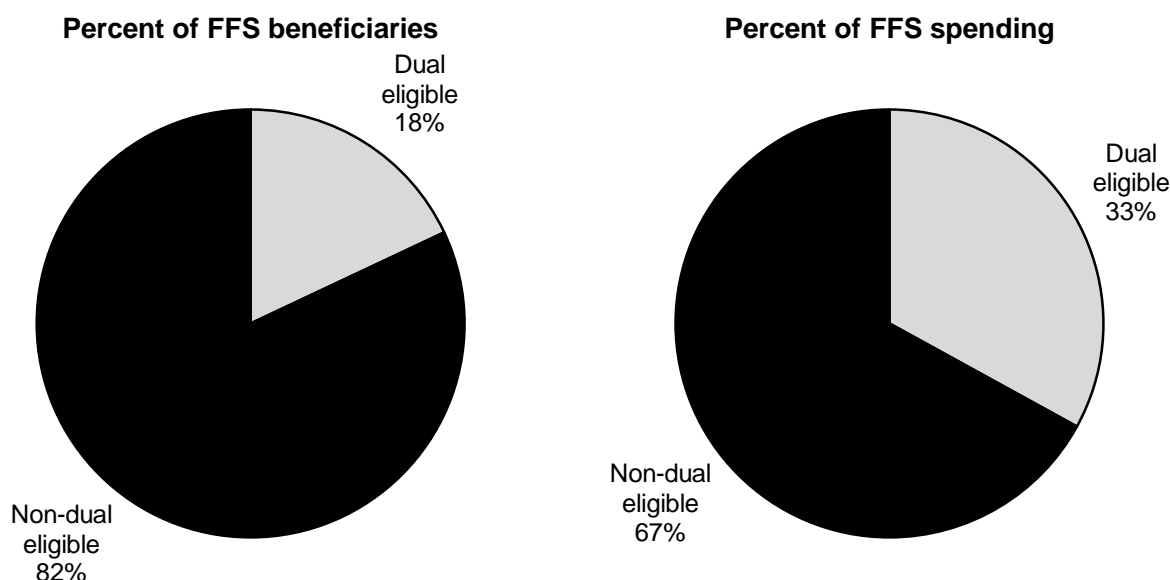
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**Dual-eligible  
beneficiaries**

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**Chart 4-1. Dual-eligible beneficiaries account for a disproportionate share of Medicare spending, 2011**

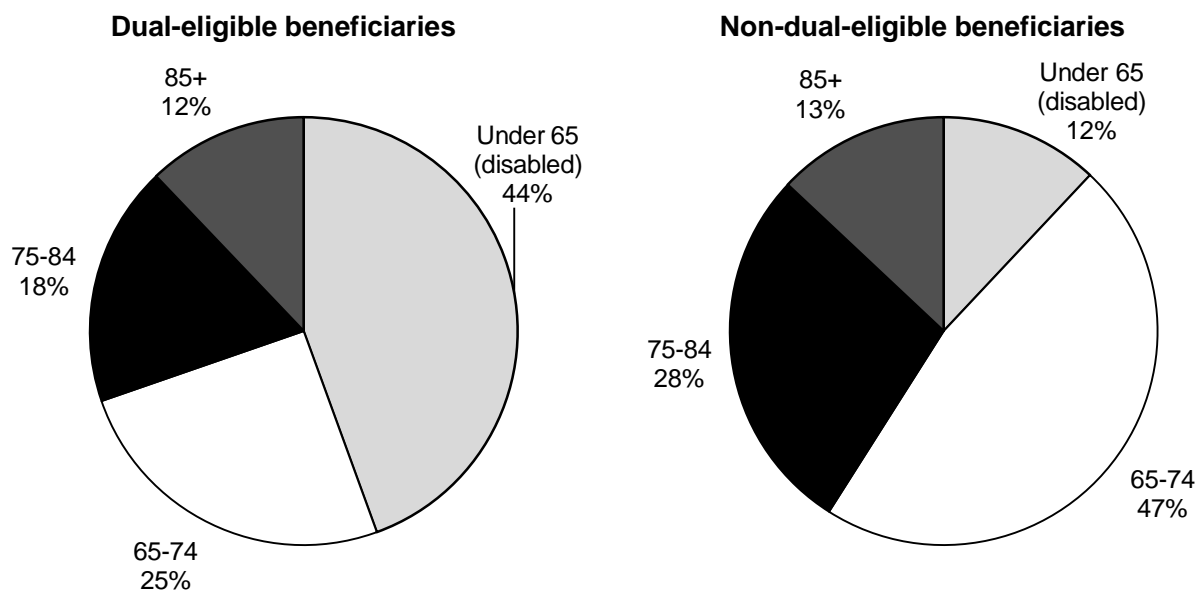


Note: FFS (fee for service). Dual-eligible beneficiaries are designated as such if the months they were enrolled in Medicaid exceeded the months they were enrolled in supplemental insurance.

Source: MedPAC analysis of the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey, Cost and Use file 2011.

- Dual-eligible beneficiaries are those who qualify for both Medicare and Medicaid. Medicaid is a joint federal and state program designed to help people with low incomes obtain needed health care.
- Dual-eligible beneficiaries account for a disproportionate share of Medicare FFS expenditures. As 18 percent of the Medicare FFS population, they represented 33 percent of aggregate Medicare FFS spending in 2011.
- On average, Medicare FFS per capita spending is more than twice as high for dual-eligible beneficiaries compared with non-dual-eligible beneficiaries: In 2011, \$19,113 was spent per dual-eligible beneficiary, and \$8,685 was spent per non-dual-eligible beneficiary.
- In 2011, average total spending—which includes Medicare, Medicaid, supplemental insurance, and out-of-pocket spending across all payers—for dual-eligible beneficiaries was about \$30,500 per beneficiary, about twice the amount for other Medicare beneficiaries.

**Chart 4-2. Dual-eligible beneficiaries are more likely than non-dual-eligible beneficiaries to be under age 65 and disabled, 2011**

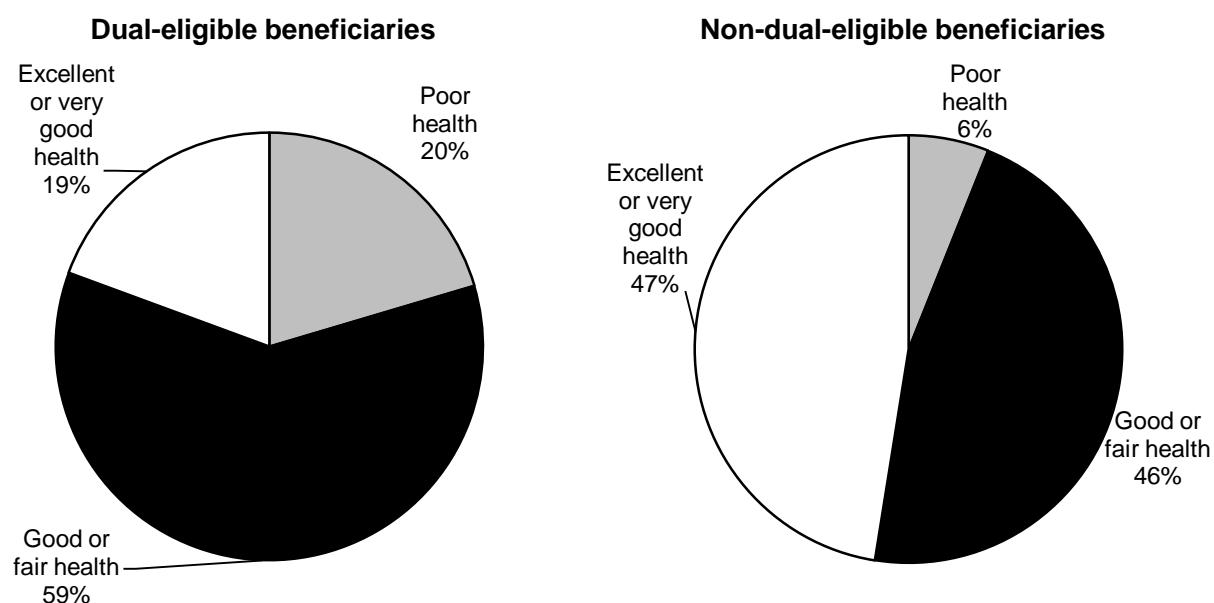


Note: Beneficiaries who are under age 65 qualify for Medicare because they are disabled. Once disabled beneficiaries reach age 65, they are counted as aged beneficiaries. Dual-eligible beneficiaries are designated as such if the months they were enrolled in Medicaid exceeded the months they were enrolled in supplemental insurance. Totals may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.

Source: MedPAC analysis of Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey, Cost and Use file 2011.

- Disability is a pathway for individuals to become eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid benefits.
- Dual-eligible beneficiaries are more likely than non-dual-eligible beneficiaries to be under age 65 and disabled. In 2011, 44 percent of dual-eligible beneficiaries were under age 65 and disabled compared with 12 percent of the non-dual-eligible population.

**Chart 4-3. Dual-eligible beneficiaries are more likely than non-dual-eligible beneficiaries to report poorer health status, 2011**



Note: Dual-eligible beneficiaries are designated as such if the months they were enrolled in Medicaid exceeded the months they were enrolled in supplemental insurance. Totals may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding or nonresponse to survey question.

Source: MedPAC analysis of the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey, Cost and Use file 2011.

- Dual-eligible beneficiaries are more likely than non-dual-eligible beneficiaries to report poorer health status. In 2011, 20 percent of dual-eligible beneficiaries reported being in poor health compared with 6 percent of non-dual-eligible beneficiaries.
- Almost half of non-dual-eligible beneficiaries (47 percent) reported being in excellent or very good health in 2011. In comparison, less than one-fifth (19 percent) of dual-eligible beneficiaries reported being in excellent or very good health.

**Chart 4-4. Demographic differences between dual-eligible beneficiaries and non-dual-eligible beneficiaries, 2011**

| Characteristic                       | Percent of dual-eligible beneficiaries | Percent of non-dual-eligible beneficiaries |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Sex</b>                           |  |  |
| Male                                 | 39%                                    | 46%  |
| Female                               | 61                                     | 54   |
| <b>Race/ethnicity</b>                |  |  |
| White, non-Hispanic                  | 58                                     | 79   |
| African American, non-Hispanic       | 18                                     | 8  |
| Hispanic                             | 14                                     | 8  |
| Other                                | 10                                     | 4  |
| <b>Limitations in ADLs</b>           |  |  |
| No ADLs                              | 43                                     | 69   |
| 1–2 ADLs                             | 27                                     | 21   |
| 3–6 ADLs                             | 31                                     | 10   |
| <b>Residence</b>                     |  |  |
| Urban                                | 70                                     | 78   |
| Rural                                | 30                                     | 22   |
| <b>Living arrangement</b>            |  |  |
| Institution                          | 18                                     | 2  |
| Alone                                | 30                                     | 28   |
| Spouse                               | 14                                     | 54   |
| Children, nonrelatives, others       | 37                                     | 16   |
| <b>Education</b>                     |  |  |
| No high school diploma               | 48                                     | 18   |
| High school diploma only             | 26                                     | 29   |
| Some college or more                 | 23                                     | 52   |
| <b>Income status</b>                 |  |  |
| Below poverty                        | 61                                     | 9  |
| 100–125% of poverty                  | 18                                     | 7  |
| 125–200% of poverty                  | 17                                     | 21   |
| 200–400% of poverty                  | 4                                      | 33   |
| Over 400% of poverty                 | 1                                      | 30   |
| <b>Supplemental insurance status</b> |  |  |
| Medicare or Medicare/Medicaid only   | 93                                     | 18   |
| Medicare managed care                | 3                                      | 31   |
| Employer-sponsored insurance         | 1                                      | 32   |
| Medigap                              | 1                                      | 17   |
| Medigap/employer                     | 0                                      | 1  |
| Other*                               | 4                                      | 1  |

Note: ADL (activity of daily living). Dual-eligible beneficiaries are designated as such if the months they were enrolled in Medicaid exceeded the months they were enrolled in other supplemental insurance. "Urban" indicates beneficiaries living in metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs). "Rural" indicates beneficiaries living outside MSAs. In 2011, poverty was defined as income of \$10,788 for people living alone and \$13,609 for married couples. Totals may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding and exclusion of an "other" category. Poverty thresholds are calculated by the U.S. Census Bureau (<https://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/threshld/>).  
\*Includes public programs such as the Department of Veterans Affairs and state-sponsored drug plans.

Source: MedPAC analysis of Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey, Cost and Use file 2011.

- Dual-eligible beneficiaries qualify for Medicaid due in part to low incomes. In 2011, 61 percent lived below the federal poverty level, and 95 percent lived below 200 percent of the poverty level. Compared with non-dual-eligible beneficiaries, dual-eligible beneficiaries are more likely to be female, be African American or Hispanic, lack a high school diploma, have greater limitations in activities of daily living, reside in a rural area, and live in an institution. They are less likely to have sources of supplemental coverage other than Medicaid.

**Chart 4-5. Differences in Medicare spending and service use between dual-eligible beneficiaries and non-dual-eligible beneficiaries, 2011**

| Service   | Dual-eligible beneficiaries | Non-dual-eligible beneficiaries |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Average FFS Medicare payment for all beneficiaries</b> |                             |                                 |
| Total Medicare FFS payments                               | \$19,113                    | \$8,685                         |
| Inpatient hospital  | 5,488                       | 2,772                           |
| Physician <sup>a</sup>                                    | 3,308                       | 2,416                           |
| Outpatient hospital                                       | 2,040                       | 1,168                           |
| Home health   | 854                         | 416                             |
| Skilled nursing facility <sup>b</sup>                     | 1,489                       | 561                             |
| Hospice   | 511                         | 229                             |
| Prescribed medication <sup>c</sup>                        | 5,396                       | 1,117                           |
| <b>Percent of FFS beneficiaries using service</b>         |                             |                                 |
| Percent using any type of service                         | 97.5%                       | 86.3%                           |
| Inpatient hospital  | 23.6                        | 16.2                            |
| Physician <sup>a</sup>                                    | 92.6                        | 82.1                            |
| Outpatient hospital                                       | 79.0                        | 61.0                            |
| Home health   | 13.1                        | 8.2                             |
| Skilled nursing facility <sup>b</sup>                     | 7.8                         | 4.1                             |
| Hospice   | 3.6                         | 2.0                             |
| Prescribed medication <sup>c</sup>                        | 78.0                        | 44.4                            |

Note: FFS (fee-for-service). Data in this analysis are restricted to beneficiaries in FFS. Dual-eligible beneficiaries are designated as such if the months they were enrolled in Medicaid exceeded the months they were enrolled in supplemental insurance. Spending totals derived from the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS) do not necessarily match official estimates from CMS Office of the Actuary. Total payments may not equal the sum of line items due to omitted "other" category.

<sup>a</sup> Includes a variety of medical services, equipment, and supplies.

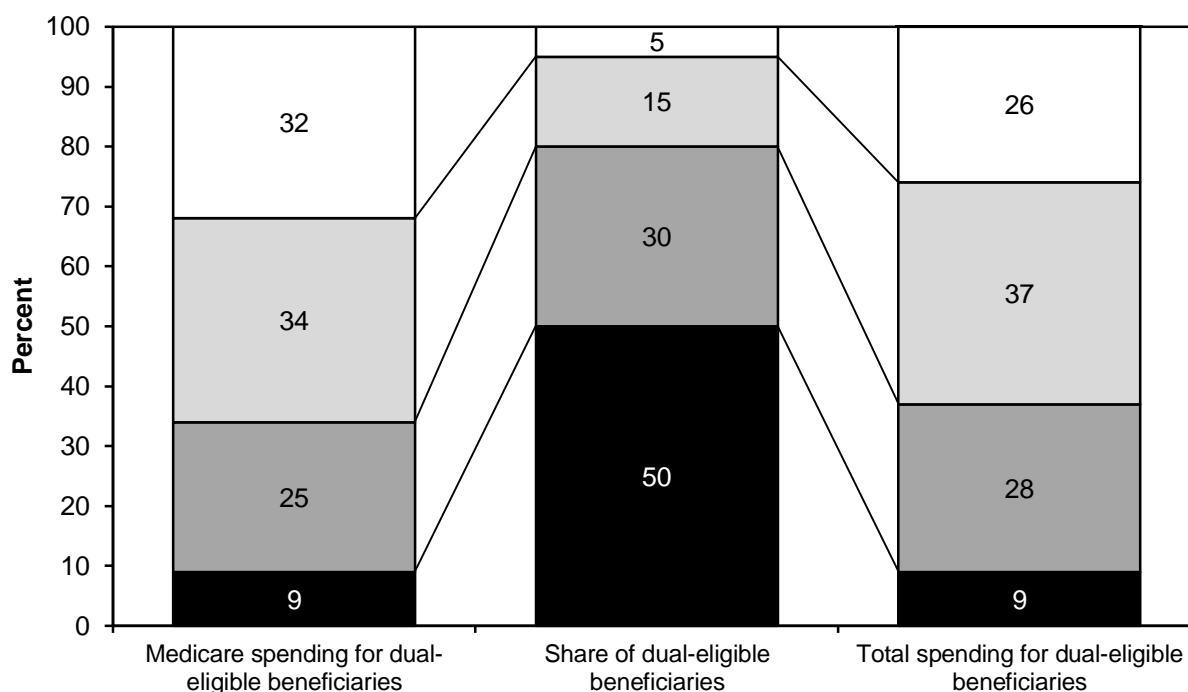
<sup>b</sup> Individual short-term facility (usually skilled nursing facility) stays for the MCBS population.

<sup>c</sup> Data from Medicare Advantage–Prescription Drug plans and stand-alone prescription drug plans.

Source: MedPAC analysis of the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey, Cost and Use file 2011.

- Average per capita Medicare FFS spending for dual-eligible beneficiaries was more than twice that for non-dual-eligible beneficiaries—\$19,113 compared with \$8,685.
- For each type of service, average Medicare FFS per capita spending is higher for dual-eligible beneficiaries than for non-dual-eligible beneficiaries.
- Higher average per capita FFS spending for dual-eligible beneficiaries is a function of a higher use of these services by dual-eligible beneficiaries compared with their non-dual-eligible counterparts. Dual-eligible beneficiaries are more likely than non-dual-eligible beneficiaries to use each type of Medicare-covered service.

**Chart 4-6. Both Medicare and total spending are concentrated among dual-eligible beneficiaries, 2011**



Note: "Total spending" includes Medicare, Medicaid, supplemental insurance, and out-of-pocket spending. Dual-eligible beneficiaries are designated as such if the months they were enrolled in Medicaid exceeded the months they were enrolled in supplemental insurance. Totals may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.

Source: MedPAC analysis of the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey, Cost and Use files 2011.

- Annual Medicare FFS spending on dual-eligible beneficiaries is concentrated among a small number. The costliest 20 percent of dual-eligible beneficiaries accounted for 66 percent of Medicare spending and 63 percent of total spending on dual-eligible beneficiaries in 2011. In contrast, the least costly 50 percent of dual-eligible beneficiaries accounted for only 9 percent of Medicare spending and 9 percent of total spending on dual-eligible beneficiaries.
- On average, total spending (including Medicaid, medigap, etc.) for dual-eligible beneficiaries in 2011 was about twice that for non-dual-eligible beneficiaries—about \$30,500 compared with about \$15,178.